

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR ACE MOBILE FORCE - EWG AGENDA

7 OCT 75, ITEM III FORCE

REF: A. AC/281-N(75)2

B. STATE 237680, 062043Z OCT 75

C. USNATO 5419, 061310Z OCT 75

SUMMARY. SHAPE STUDY OF FOUR AMF (ACE MOBILE FORCE) LOGISTIC PROBLEM AREAS PRESENTED TO EWG FOR DISCUSSION AND ENDORSEMENT. SUBJECT TO SOME NATIONAL DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC POINTS, EWG ENDORSED THE EFFORT AND INVITED SHAPE TO REFER BACK ANY PROBLEMS THEY MIGHT HAVE IN WORKING WITH NATO CAPITALS. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) REMARKED THAT SHAPE REPORT WAS IN FORM OF A LETTER FROM ITS LOGISTICS AND ARMAMENTS DIVISION TO SYG BUT THAT EWG COULD TAKE INPUTS FROM ANY SOURCE. HE SAID THAT WHILE AMF IS A SPECIAL FORCE WITH SPECIAL LOGISTICS PROBLEMS, THE REPORT MIGHT NEVERTHELESS REFLECT MORE GENERAL PROBLEMS. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. SHAPE SPOKESMAN (B/GEN SCHWEITZER, USA) RECALLED THEIR BRIEFING OF EWG TWO YEARS AGO ON LACK OF STANDARDIZATION IN AMF AND SUBSEQUENT RECOGNITION BY SHAPE THAT THIS WAS ONLY ONE OF THE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS. PRESENT SHORTAGE OF FUNDS, BOTH

IN NATO AND NATIONALLY IS PROVIDING AN INCENTIVE FOR BROADER IMPROVEMENTS IN OVERALL LOGISTIC SUPPORT. THE SHAPE REPORT PINPOINTED AREAS OF MAXIMUM POTENTIAL GAIN BUT DID NOT PROVIDE SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE NECESSARY DATA HAD TO BE OBTAINED FROM NATIONS. IF EWG WOULD SIMPLY ENDORSE PURPOSE OF STUDY, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD GO TO NATIONS WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

3. MILITARY COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN (M/GEN TORP, NOA) SAID MC AGREED WITH THE REPORT AND SUPPORTED THE STUDY. HE COULD IN FACT SUGGEST THAT SHAPE NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH NATIONS.

4. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) AND DANISH REP (PELLING) EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE STUDY WITHOUT SPECIFIC COMMENT. ITALIAN REP (ADM CAMPAGNANO) WELCOMED THE INITIATIVE ALTHOUGH HE SAW QUOTE SERIOUS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS UNQUOTE ON WHICH HE WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT FURTHER. UK REP (PETERS) SAW QUOTE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES UNQUOTE BUT THOUGHT THE STUDY MADE MILITARY SENSE AND HE COULD SUPPORT ITS AIMS. DUTCH REP (CARSTEN) SIMPLY REMARKED THAT THE HAGUE WANTED TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO QUOTE GET RID OF THE MANY CONSTRAINTS ON THE AMF QUNQUOTE.

5. FRG REP (SCHUNEMANN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD REACHED NO FINAL CONCLUSIONS ON THE SHAPE REPORT. THEY DID WELCOME THE IDEA OF AN EXCHANGE OF ITEMS (PROPOSAL 1 ON PROVISION OF COMMON AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES) AND WOULD STUDY IT IN MORE DEPTH. THEY WERE SKEPTICAL OF THE PROPOSAL FOR FORWARD STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION BUT WOULD LOOK FURTHER. SCHUNEMANN THEN REITERATED THE WELL-NOWN POINT THAT STANDARDIZATION OF AMF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT WOULD CREATE NEW PROBLEMS OF STANDARDIZATION BETWEEN AMF AND NATIONAL FORCES AND NECESSITATE ADDITIONAL TRAINING, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER SUPPORT FACILITIES. HE ASKED QUOTE IN WHICH DIRECTION ARE WE GOING TO STANDARDIZE, TOWARD GERMANY OR TOWARD GREECE? UNQUOTE AND CONCLUDED THAT THE OBSTACLES ARE TOO GREAT TO BE OVERCOME. NEVERTHELESS, FRG WELCOMES THE PAPER AND WOULD WORK WITH SHAPE.

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6. US (LEGERE), DRAWING ON REF B, SAID THAT US AUTHORITIES COULD AGREE THAT SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL SUPPORT WOULD BE NEEDED TO MOVE THE SHAPE STUDY. THE US LOOKED WITH FAVOR AND INTEREST ON THE STUDY OBJECTIVES AND WOULD COOPERATE FULLY.

7. BELGIAN REP (TAYMANS) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD STUDIES THE PROBLEM IN DETAIL AND AGREED WITH THE FRG VIEWS. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE WONDERED IF THE AMF WERE NOT CREATING ITS OWN PROBLEM BY BECOMING QUOTE OBESE UNQUOTE. HE THOUGHT IN FUTURE WE WOULD AIR TRANSPORT THE EQUIPMENT OF AN ENTIRE DIVISION AND SPECULATED THAT IF AMF WERE COMPOSED OF AIRBORNE UNITS WE WOULD HAVE LESS DIFFICULTY WITH EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION.

8. EWG CHAIRMAN, REFERRING TO THE FRG AND BELGIAN STATEMENTS,

AGREED THAT THE PRIME PURPOSE OF THE AMF WAS TO DEMONSTRATE
POLITICAL SOLIDARITY BUT THOUGHT IT MUST ALSO DEMONSTRATE
MILITARY READINESS. CHAIRMAN ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT WAS CLEAR
THAT SHAPE HAD GENERAL EWG AND DELEGATION SUPPORT FOR ITS STUDY,
AND ASKED THE NMAS TO REPORT BACK PERIODICALLY. RE THE PROBLEM
OF STANDARDIZATION, HUMPHREYS SUGGESTED THAT THE NMAS CONCENTRATE
ON EQUIPMENT AREAS WHERE DECISIONS WERE STILL OUTSTANDING.
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